

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CRAIG WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION

REF: BELFAST 284, 283, 281, 278

1. MEETING VANGUARD UNIONIST CONVENTION PARTY SEPT. 15 RESULTED IN WILLIAM CRAIG WITHDRAWING HIS RESIGNATION AS LEADER 13-MAN VANGUARD DELEGATION IN CONVENTION. STATEMENTS BY CRAIG AND CHIEF PARTY WHIP CECIL HARVEY FOLLOWING MEETING INDICATE THAT CRAIG CONDITION THAT ALL VANGUARD CONVENTION MEMBERS AGREE TO SUPPORT HIS PROPOSALS WAS NOT RPT NOT MET. WITHDRAWAL RESIGNATION IS SEEN THEREFORE AS EXPEDIENT DESIGNED TO PERMIT CRAIG TO RESUBMIT OR WITHDRAW HIS SUGGESTION THAT POSSIBILITY OF SDLP PARTICIPATION IN EMERGENCY COALITION CABINET UNDER SPECIFIED CONDITIONS BE EXPLORED. CRAIG CAN NOW ALSO SUBMIT NEW PROPOSALS. THIS ACTION SCHEDULED FOR MEETING UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) CONVENTION MEMBERS THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WILL MEET WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 AND IT APPEARS VARIOUS UNIONIST PROPOSALS FOR SHAPE NEW
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GOVERNMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED. FORMAL SUBMISSIONS

NOT RPT NOT EXPECTED UNTIL FOLLOWING WEEK. IT STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER TENTATIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR SUB-CABINET COMMITTEE SYSTEM WITH SOME CHAIRMEN FROM MINORITY POLITICAL GROUPS WILL BE INCLUDED. IT APPEARS SDLP PROPOSAL FOR CHAIRMAN TO WRITE FINAL CONVENTION REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO WESTMINSTER WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ADOPTED.

3. UUUC STILL IN CONSIDERABLE DISARRAY OVER CRAIG INITIATIVE. SOME OFFICIAL AND VANGUARD UNIONISTS BELIEVE CRAIG VIEWS MERIT FURTHER HEARING. DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS UNDER IAN PAISLEY REMAIN IMPLACABLY AGAINST ANY FORMULA FOR CABINET POSITIONS FOR "REPUBLICANS." MOOD OF DESPAIR PREVAILING IN PROVINCE ONE WEEK AGO HOWEVER HAS DISAPPEARED. THERE NOW HOPES BEING VOICED THAT, DESPITE LACK SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN CONVENTION, WHICH COULD END EARLY NOVEMBER, WAY WILL BE OPEN FOR FURTHER INTER-PARTY TALKS AND EVENTUAL NEW INITIATIVE BY HMG IN PLEBISCITE OR REFERENDUM. WHILE IT PREMATURE PUT FORWARD SWEEPING ANALYSIS OR PREDICTIONS IT APPEARS TRADITIONAL LOYALIST POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES SHAKEN BY RECENT REVELATIONS POPULAR SENTIMENT. ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE HAS BEEN ATTITUDES IMPORTANT PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY GROUPS FAVORING CONTINUED TALKS TOWARD SOME ACCOMODATION WITH MINORITY COMMUNITY.

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